

# House File 165 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 165

BY MCKEAN

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act limiting campaign contributions to certain candidates  
2 and making civil and criminal penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION.   **68A.507 Contribution limits for**  
2 **candidates.**

3     1. The term "*election campaign cycle*" means the time period  
4 between elections for a particular office. For purposes of  
5 this section, each primary, general, and special election is a  
6 separate election campaign cycle. Separate contribution limits  
7 for each type of election for a particular office, including  
8 primary, general, and special elections, apply in an election  
9 campaign cycle. However, if a candidate for office does not  
10 run in a contested primary election, the contribution limit for  
11 the general election shall apply for the time period covering  
12 both the primary and general elections.

13    2. Except for a political party as defined in section  
14 43.2, a person shall not make, and a candidate or candidate's  
15 committee or anyone acting on behalf of a candidate or  
16 candidate's committee shall not accept, any contribution which  
17 will cause the total amount of such person's contributions  
18 to such a candidate or candidate's committee for one of  
19 the following offices to exceed the following amounts in an  
20 election campaign cycle:

21     a. For a statewide elected official as defined in section  
22 68B.2, one thousand five hundred dollars.

23     b. For a state senator or state representative, one thousand  
24 dollars.

25    3. A political party as defined in section 43.2 shall  
26 not make, and a candidate or candidate's committee or anyone  
27 acting on behalf of any candidate or candidate's committee  
28 shall not accept, any contribution which will cause the total  
29 amount of contributions from a political party to a candidate  
30 or candidate's committee for one of the following offices to  
31 exceed the following amounts in an election campaign cycle:

32     a. For governor, seventy-five thousand dollars.

33     b. For a statewide elected official as defined in section  
34 68B.2 other than the governor, twenty-five thousand dollars.

35     c. For state senator, ten thousand dollars.

1     *d.* For state representative, five thousand dollars.

2	EXPLANATION
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3           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
4           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill establishes limits for contributions to candidates  
6 for certain political offices in Iowa by persons, defined  
7 by the Code to include both natural and legal persons, and  
8 political parties. The specified limitations are for each  
9 election cycle, with each primary, general, and special  
10 election being a separate cycle. The bill limits contributions  
11 from persons other than political parties to a total of  
12 \$1,500 for candidates for statewide elected office and \$1,000  
13 for state senators and representatives. The bill limits  
14 contributions from political parties to a total of \$75,000  
15 for gubernatorial candidates, \$25,000 for candidates for  
16 statewide elected offices other than the governor, \$10,000 for  
17 candidates for state senate, and \$5,000 for candidates for  
18 state representative.

19 A person who willfully violates a provision of the bill  
20 is guilty of a serious misdemeanor pursuant to Code section  
21 68A.701. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement  
22 for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$315 but  
23 not more than \$1,875. A person who violates a provision of  
24 the bill is also subject to civil penalties pursuant to Code  
25 section 68B.32D.